

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 04646 111754Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 CU-04 PA-01 PRS-01 (ISO) W

-----116881 121014Z /72

R 111551Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6698

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 4646

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, JM

SUBJECT: PNP YOUTH URGE RADICAL COURSE

1. THE YOUTH ORGANIZATION (YO) OF THE RULING PEOPLES NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) HELD ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 7. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE YET TO LEARN ANYTHING CONCRETE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE RECENT PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE YO (SEE KINGSTON 3391), THE POSITIONS ADOPTED BY THE PNP'S YOUTH FRONT APPEAR TO CORROBORATE THAT THE YO IS MOVING TOWARD AN EVEN MORE RADICAL STANCE. THE "DAILY NEWS" OF AUGUST 9 CARRIES ON ITS FRONT PAGE A REPORT WHICH IT SAYS IS BASED ON THE "POSITION PAPER" ADOPTED BY THE YO AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, AND DETAILS OF THE PAPER CONTAINED IN THE ACCOUNT REVEAL A DECIDEDLY LEFTWARD STANCE.

2. ACCORDING TO THE "DAILY NEWS", THE YO DECLARED THAT:

-- THE MANIFESTO OF THE PNP IS "TOO FLEXIBLE" AND MUST BE AMENDED TO DEFINE SOCIALISM ON THE BASIS OF UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED TERMS. (COMMENT: THE IMPLICATION IS "COMMUNIST" TERMS.)

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-- THE CONSTITUTION MUST REPLACE THE MONARCHIAL, PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM WITH A "SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC" WITH A "STRONG EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT".

-- THE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION (API), THE GOVERNMENT'S INFORMATION ARM, AND THE JAMAPIA BROADCASTING CORPORATION (JBC),

THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED RADIO AND TELEVISION COMPANY, HAVE FAILED TO GUIDE THE PEOPLE TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RIGHTS AND OF THE NEED TO DESTROY CAPITALISM. TIGHTER CONTROL OVER JBC AND API SHOULD BE MADE AN ARM OF THE MINISTRY OF MOBILIZATION.

-- RJR, THE INDEPENDENT RADIO STATION, MUST BE ACQUIRED IMMEDIATELY ON TERMS WHICH SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE JAMAICANS (BY IMPLICATION, SOMETHING LESS THAN ITS VALUE). "THE GLEANER" MUST BE PLACED UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE WORKERS OR TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT. (RE THE PROBLEMS OF "THE GLEANER", SEE KINGSTON A-60 OF AUGUST 6, 1977.)

3. COMMENT: THE VIEWS SET FORTH IN THE YO'S "POSITION PAPER" REFLECT THOSE HELD BY THE PNP'S MOST RADICAL MEMBERS, AND ARE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE EXTREME THAN THOSE OF THE MAJORITY OF PARTY MEMBERS. NEVERTHELESS, THE POSITIONS ADOPTED BY THE YO CANNOT BE IGNORED. THE LEADING MEMBERS OF THE YO, LIKE THEIR MENTORS IN THE PNP "RADICAL" FACTION, POSSESS A FAR MORE SYSTEMATIC VIEW OF THE JAMAICA THEY SEEK THAN DO THE PNP "MODERATES". MOREOVER, THE YO MEMBERS, LIKE SO MANY OF THE "RADICALS", POSSESS WILL AND ENERGY, AND INTEND TO IMPOSE THEIR VIEWS ON JAMAICA IF THEY CAN. THE "POSITION PAPER" WILL INEVITABLY FIGURE IN THE FORTHCOMING ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PNP, SCHEDULED

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FOR SEPT. 8-11. THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO ANTICIPATE THAT THE VIEWS SET FORTH WILL BE ADOPTED. HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT BE IGNORED, PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY SUPPORT -- AND OFTEN GO BEYOND 17 THE POSITIONS OF THE "RADICALS". THE EFFECT OF THE "POSITION PAPER" WILL BE TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE PNP TO MOVE LEFTWARD. THE "MODERATES", WHO ARE NEITHER SYSTEMATIC OR ENERGETIC, WILL DO LITTLE TO CHECK THE IMPULSE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: YOUTH, RULING PARTY, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINGST04646
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770290-1134
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770872/aaaacjeb.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fd0da45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1634883
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PNP YOUTH URGE RADICAL COURSE
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, JM, PNP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fd0da45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009